



CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL

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News Release

California Arts Council to take part in Legislative Joint Committee on the Arts' hearing on public funding of the arts in California

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 17, 1997

Senator Adam B. Schiff's Web Site: http://www.sen.ca.gov/htbin/senator_profile/schiff

BURBANK: Senator Adam B. Schiff (D-Burbank), Chair of the Legislature's Joint Committee on the Arts, announced that the Committee will hold an interim session hearing on "**The State of the Arts in California.**" Witnesses will provide a historical perspective on arts funding in California, an outline of current available funding, and a perspective on future opportunities. **The hearing will be held at Burbank City Hall, 275 E. Olive Avenue in Burbank from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 1997. The public is invited to attend.**

Senator Schiff has invited prominent leaders in the entertainment field to participate in the Legislature's Joint Committee on the Arts interim hearing in Burbank, which will focus on California's economy as it moves toward greater dependence on the entertainment industry. The Committee will address such policy questions as:

- The role of government in future funding of the arts;
- How to encourage the increase of private sector support for the arts; and
- The role arts can play in preparing the workforce needed by California leading employers.

"It has been a long time since the Legislature has made an assessment of the importance of artistic contributions in the overall economy, and because the Committee's hearing may lead to new legislation in 1988, the Committee is especially interested in the entertainment industry's insight on ways the Legislature's Joint Committee on the Arts can achieve its goals and plan for the future," states Senator Schiff.

Along with the **California Arts Council**, representatives of the following organizations and businesses have been invited to participate in the panel discussions:

- **Los Angeles County Arts Commission**
- **California Assembly of Local Arts Agencies**
- **Academy of Television Arts & Sciences**
- **Alliance of Motion Picture & TV Producers**
- **Major Film Studios**
- **Individual Artists**
- **State and Local Government**

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The Agenda for the Hearing is currently set to include the following panels and invited panelists:

Welcome and Introductions:

Senator Adam B. Schiff of Burbank, Committee Chair
Assembly Member Don Perata of Oakland
Assembly Member Antonio Villaraigosa of Los Angeles
and other Committee members

Historical Overview:

Senator Alan Sieroty
Julia Rodriguez-Elliott, Executive Director, A Noise Within, Glendale

Overview of Current Funding for the Arts in California:

Barbara Pieper, Director, California Arts Council
Barry Hessenius, President/CEO, California Assembly of Local Arts Agencies
Laura Zucker, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Arts Commission
Edward C. Cazier, Jr., Esq., California Arts Council member
Mary Alvord, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, City of Burbank

Planning for the Future:

James L. Loper, Ph.D., Executive Director, Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and Vice Chair, California Arts Council
Rosalie Zalis, Governor Wilson's Special Liason to the Entertainment Industry
Christine Essel, Senior Vice President, Planning and Development, Paramount Pictures
Hope Boonshaft, Vice President, External Affairs, Sony Pictures
Timothy Busfield, Actor, Artistic Director, B Street Theater, Sacramento
Aaron Sorkin, Screenwriter
Lars Hansen, Managing Director, Pasadena Playhouse

The **California Arts Council**, a state agency established in 1976, promotes artistic awareness and participation in California. The California Arts Council's mission is to promote the arts and serve the people of California. The Arts Council provides technical assistance and grants to artists and nonprofit organizations. Applications are reviewed and rated at public meetings by outside professional peer panels and receive final approval from the appointed 11-member Council. Arts Council members include: **Thomas Hall**, Chair; **James L. Loper**, Vice Chair; **Dea Spanos Berberian**; **Edward C. Cazier, Jr.**; **Iris R. Dart**; **Doris Fisher**; **Barbara George**; **Hugh Hewitt**; **Janet Karatz**; **David C. Lizarraga**; and **A.C. Lyles**.

This and other press releases can be found on the California Arts Council's Web site at: <http://www.cac.ca.gov>.

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